THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

BOROUGH OF BURY ST. EDMUND'S,

FOR THE YEAR 1899

(January 1st to December 31st inclusive),

BY

A. HUGH GIBBON,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF BURY ST. EDMUND'S.

GENTLEMEN,

In submitting to you my Report on the sanitary condition of the Borough during the year 1899, I wish first of all to mention some of the most important works of improvement which have been carried out, or initiated, during that period.

At the Sanitary Hospital a new "Washington Lyons" disinfector has been erected, which works in a most satisfactory manner and is available for disinfecting clothes, bedding, carpets, &c., from any part of the town.

A new ambulance has been ordered, and is now being constructed, the design being a modified one of that adopted by the Metropolitan Asylums Board.

The Sanitary Hospital has been put in a thorough state of repair, and is now in charge of a Porter and Matron, while a trained Nurse is engaged for all cases of serious illness.

The public water supply during the past year has been excellent both in quantity and quality. A new reservoir with a capacity of half a million gallons has been erected on the highest point of ground inside the Borough. This is supplemented by a water tank at a high level, which now provides a plentiful supply of water to all houses on the high ground to the West side of the town.

Numerous samples of water have been taken from town wells, and as the result of analysis in a dozen cases these wells have been closed and

the town water laid on to replace their supply. It is strongly to be urged that this work be steadily proceeded with, and that all houses in the town be supplied from the Water Works.

During the year a number of privies have been abolished and replaced by closets connected with the sewers, which is also a work of considerable importance not only for the health but also for the comfort of the inhabitants in general.

At the Victoria Street Infant Schools new automatic flushing tanks and closet apparatus have been fixed, and it is to be hoped this example will shortly be followed by the Management Committee of the other Schools where they are not already in use.

The Bakehouses have been examined at intervals and found to be well kept.

There have been numerous complaints of the shrieking of pigs in Slaughter Houses in various localities, and as it has now been decided to grant annual licences only, for Slaughter Houses, it is to be hoped that it may be found possible to abolish these establishments, and provide a public abattoir in a suitable locality where strict cleanliness can be enforced and no annoyance caused to neighbouring property owners or their tenants.

The health of the town during the year has been extremely good, as is shewn by the low death rate—viz, 16.05 per 1000.

Of the total number of deaths—305—116 were of persons over 65 years of age, and 45 of infants under 1 year, the total number of deaths from Zymotic Diseases being 5, and from Iufluenza 13.

There has been only one complaint of unsound food during the year, that being of a large quantity of fish which was brought from Boston to be hawked in the streets. This, on inspection, being found to be unfit for food was at once seized and destroyed.

The Report from the Borough Surveyor and the Veterinary Surgeon on the condition of the Cow Sheds in the town is highly satisfactory.

Several houses in Finsbury Court, Whiting Street, having been condemned as unsanitary, have been purchased by the Town Council, and are to be demolished.

Buildings in St. Martin's Court which have been a constant source of anxiety to the Sanitary Committee have been purchased with a view to their demolition and the construction of a new street on their site.

Births.

The number of Births registered in the Borough during the year 1899 was 412; the number for 1898 having been 451. There were 169 Births in St. Mary's parish, including 8 illegitimate in the Thingoe Union Workhouse. Of the 169 Births, 75 were male and 94 female, and of the

whole 17 were illegitimate. In St. James' Parish 243 Births were registered, 124 of which were males and 119 females ; 7 of these were illegitimate, making a total for the whole Borough of 24 illegitimate Births. The 412 Births give a birth-rate of 23·88 per 1000, estimating the population at 17,250 ; the rate for 1898 having been 26·5.

Mortality.

The total number of Deaths registered in the Borough during the year, from all causes, was 305 ; which gives a death-rate of 17·68 per 1000, taking the population as estimated above. Allowing, however, for the Deaths of 28 strangers, occurring in Public Institutions, the number of Deaths belonging to the Borough becomes 277, which gives a rate of mortality for the Borough of 16·05.

Of the 305 Deaths, 108 occurred in St. Mary's Parish, 35 in the Thingoe Union Workhouse, 29 in the Suffolk General Hospital, 2 in the Sanitary Hospital, and 131 in St. James' Parish.

The following table of Mortality corresponds to that usually sent with the Annual Report, and required by the Local Government Board to be sent to the Town Clerk and to the Clerk of the County Council:—

DISEASES	St. Mary's Parish.		Thingoe Union Workhouse		Suffolk General Hospital.		Isolation Hospital.		St. James' Parish.	
	under 5 yrs.	over 5 yrs.	under 5 yrs.	over 5 yrs.	under 5 yrs.	over 5 yrs.	under 5 yrs.	over 5 yrs.	under 5 yrs.	over 5 yrs.
Small Pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlatina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Membranous Croup ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fevers. Typhus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fevers. Typhoid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Fevers. Continued	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fevers. Relapsing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fevers. Puerperal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cholera	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Whooping-cough ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Diarrhœa and Dysentery	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Rheumatic Fever ...	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ague	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phthisis	0	9	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	9
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy	3	8	0	4	1	1	0	0	4	16
Heart Disease	0	8	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	6
Injuries	1	1	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	3
All other causes ...	21	52	1	26	3	13	0	0	23	63
Totals.	28	80	1	34	4	25	0	2	33	98

Total 305

The following table shows the ages at which the deaths occurred in the different Districts :—

	St. Mary's Parish.	Thingoe Union Workhouse.	Suffolk General Hospital.	Isolation Hospital.	St. James' Parish.	Total
Deaths under 1 year	20	1	2	0	22	45
Over 1 & under 5 yrs.	8	0	2	0	11	21
,, 5 ,, 15 ,,	2	0	2	2	4	10
,, 15 ,, 25 ,,	5	0	3	0	7	15
,, 25 ,, 65 ,,	32	9	17	0	40	98
65 yrs. & upwards	41	25	3	0	47	116
Total	108	35	29	2	131	305

Infant Mortality.

There were 45 Deaths of Infants uuder one year of age. In St. Mary's Parish there were 23, including 1 in the Union, and 1 in the Suffolk General Hospital. There were 22 in St. James' Parish. These figures give a percentage of nearly 15 of the total Deaths. Measured by its proportion to the number of Births during the same period, however, the rate of Infant mortality becomes 10·92 per cent.

Aged Persons.

The number of Deaths at ages of 65 and upwards was 116, of which 41 occurred in St. Mary's Parish, 25 in the Thingoe Union Workhouse, 3 in the Suffolk General Hospital, and 47 in St. James' Parish ; these figures are equal to 38.03 per cent. of the total number of Deaths ; so that the Deaths of Infants and of Old People combined amount to about 49 per cent. of the total.

There were 5 deaths from Zymotic Diseases (those which come under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act) ; three of these were due to Diphtheria, one to Measles, and one to Typhoid Fever. Of the fatal cases of Diphtheria one occurred in St. Mary's Parish, at the patient's home ; one in the Sanitary Hospital ; the other in St. James' Parish, at the patient's home. The fatal case of Typhoid Fever occurred in the Sanitary Hospital, the patient having belonged to St. Mary's Parish, that of Measles occurred in St. James' Parish at the patient's home. Based on these figures, the Zymotic Death-rate for 1899 was 0·28 per 1000, the rate for 1898 having been ·7.

Inquests.

During the year, 11 Inquests were held in the Borough, the causes of death being attributed as follows :—One due to natural causes ; four suicide during temporary insanity ; five accidental ; one misadventure under influence of chloroform ; and one injuries, the causes of which there was not sufficient evidence to show. There were 17 Deaths registered as uncertified by a medical practitioner, about which no inquest was held, 8 being infants (of which 3 were attributed to premature birth, one to whooping cough, two to debility from birth, and two to convulsions. Of the rest, one to asthma and dropsy, three to syncope, one to senile decay, one to chronic bronchitis and asthma, one to pleurisy, one to paralysis, and one to heart disease.

ZYMOTIC SICKNESS IN THE BOROUGH DURING THE PERIOD.

The total number of cases certified under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act was 64. Of these 38 were Diphtheria ; 3 Typhoid Fever ; 16 Scarlet Fever ; and 7 Erysipelas.

Diphtheria.—38 cases. Twelve in St. Mary's Parish ; two in the Thingoe Union ; and 24 in St. James' Parish. Of all these 27 were removed to the Sanitary Hospital, one of which was fatal. One case was also fatal at own home, in St. Mary's Parish, and one in St. James' Parish.

Typhoid.—3 cases. One in St. Mary's Parish ; one in the Suffolk General Hospital ; and one in St. James' Parish. One case was removed to the Sanitary Hospital, and this proved fatal.

Scarlatina—16 cases. Five in St. Mary's Parish ; two in the Thingoe Union ; and nine in St. James' Parish. All except one of these were removed to the Sanitary Hospital.

Erysipelas.—7 cases. Two in St. Mary's Parish ; one in the Suffolk General Hospital ; and four in St. James' Parish.

Influenza.—During the month of December the deaths from Influenza were six between the ages of 40 and 65 years, and five over 65 years.

THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The following list, drawn up by the Sanitary Inspector, shows the ages, diseases, dates of admission, and discharge of the several Patients treated in the Hospital :—

ST. MARY'S PARISH.

Date of Admission.	Sex.	Age.	Disease.	Class of Patient.	Result.	Date of Discharge.
1898						
Dec. 12	F.	14	Typhoid Fever	Pauper	Died	Feb. 12, 1899
1899						
Jan. 30	F.	22	Diphtheria	Pauper	Cured	,, 22, ,,
Feb. 21	F.	17	Scarlet Fever	Pauper	Cured	Apr. 4, ,,
Mar. 4	F.	22	Diphtheria	Pauper	Cured	Mar. 25, ,,
April 7	F.	26	Diphtheria	Pauper	Cured	Apr. 27, ,,
,, 19	M.	10	Diphtheria	Pauper	Cured	May 17, ,,
,, 24	F.	36	Diphtheria	Urb. San.	Cured	,, 19, ,,
,, 24	F.	3½	Diphtheria	Urb. San.	Cured	,, 19, ,,
,, 24	M.	6	Diphtheria	Urb. San.	Cured	,, 19, ,,
,, 24	M.	4	Diphtheria	Urb. San.	Cured	,, 21, ,,
,, 29	F.	5	Diphtheria	Urb. San.	Cured	,, 26, ,,
May 1	M.	4	Diphtheria	Urb. San.	Cured	,, 29, ,,
Aug. 16	M.	16	Diphtheria	Urb. San.	Cured	Sept. 7, ,,
,, 22	F.	22	Diphtheria	Private	Cured	,, 11, ,,
,, 24	F.	12	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	Oct. 7, ,,
,, 24	F.	5	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	,, 21, ,,
Sept. 2	F.	18	Scarlet Fevsr	Private	Cured	,, 21, ,,
,, 2	M.	14	Scarlet Fever	Private	Cured	Nov. 1, ,,
,, 4	M.	8	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	,, 1, ,,
Oct. 27	F.	18	Scarlet Fever	Private	Cured	Dec. 16, ,,
Nov. 3	M.	8	Scarlet Fever	Private	Cured	Jan. 3, 1900
Dec. 14	M.	19	Scarlet Fever	Pauper	Still in Hospital	

Total number of cases from St. Mary's Parish. 22 ; viz., 12 Diphtheria, and 9 Scarlet Fever, 1 Typhoid Fever, Fatal.

ST. JAMES' PARISH.

Feb. 26	F.	5	Diphtheria	Urb. San.	Cured	Mar. 25, 1899
Apr. 17	F.	16	Diphtheria	Private	Cured	May 10, ,,
May 6	M.	6	Diphtheria	Urb. San.	Cured	June. 3, ,,
,, 29	F.	6	Diphtheria	Pauper	Died	,, 1, ,,
July 10	F.	16	Diphtheria	Private	Cured	Aug. 2 ,,
,, 10	M.	10	Diphtheria	Pauper	Cured	July 15, ,,
,, 26	F.	23	Diphtheria	Private	Cured	Aug. 16, ,,
Aug. 10	M.	10	Diphtheria	Urb. San.	Cured	Sept. 1, ,,
Sept. 28	F.	9	Diphtheria	Urb. San.	Cured	Oct. 30, ,,
Oct. 19	M.	7	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	Dec. 2, ,,
,, 29	M.	10	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	,, 16, ,,
Nov. 13	F.	13	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Still in Hospital	
,, 14	F.	4	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Still in Hospital	
,, 14	M.	12	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Cured	Dec. 23, ,,
,, 21	M.	3	Scarlet Fever	Private	Cured	Jan. 13, 1900
Dec. 2	F.	6	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Still in Hospital	
,, 6	M.	6	Scarlet Fever	Urb. San.	Still in Hospital	

Total number of cases from St. James' Parish, 17; viz., 9 Diphtheria, and 8 Scarlet Fever.

The total number of cases in the Sanitary Hospital during 1899 was 39.

SUMMARY.

The following Table contains an abstract of particulars taken from the Inspector's Books, and contains a summary in brief of the practical Sanitary Work of the year :—

ABSTRACT OF CASES

Entered in the Books of the Inspector for the year 1899.

Number of complaints received during the year	70
Number of houses and premises inspected	2215
RESULTS OF INSPECTION.	
Houses and premises cleansed, repaired, and whitewashed	18
Houses disinfected after infectious diseases	50
Number of articles of clothing and bedding disinfected at the disinfecting chamber	100
DEFECTIVE DRAINS, &c.	
House drains, cesspools, &c., repaired, cleansed, trapped, or ventilated	52
PRIVIES AND WATER CLOSETS.	
Repaired, cleansed, &c.	25
New W.C.'s provided	0
Supplied with water	8
MANURE BINS, ASHPITS, &c.	
Removal of accumulations of manure, animal and other refuse ...	97
WATER SUPPLY.	
Number of cases in which water has been condemned and fresh supply provided	7
Wells cleaned out	4
BAKE HOUSES.	
There are at the present time 38 Bake Houses in the Borough, which have been inspected at intervals during the year, and on the whole found clean and well kept	38
MILK AND FOOD SUPPLY.	
No report as to unsound Meat has reached me during the year, and I consider the Meat supply in general of excellent quality.	
Number of samples of Milk taken from Milk sellers from carts and various parts of the town, and submitted to test, and found of good quality	8
FISH SUPPLY.	
During the year there has been a good supply of Fish.	
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Number of Lodging Houses registered under Clause 76 of the Public Health Act, 1875	2
Over-crowding reduced	3
Removal of Animals improperly kept	4
Licensed Slaughter Houses inspected at intervals	17

ABSTRACT OF CASES *(continued)*.

MISCELLANEOUS. *(Continued)*.	
Various cases of sickness, &c., brought under the notice of the Sanitary Authority, and steps taken to remove them to the Sanitary Hospital—	
Cases of Small-pox ...	0
Scarlet Fever ...	17
Typhoid Fever	1
Diphtheria	21
Cholera	0
Membranous Croup ...	0
Erysipelas	0
Typhus Fever	0
Puerperal Fever	0
Legal proceedings	0

ROBERT KERRAGE,
Inspector of Nuisances for the Borough of Bury St. Edmund's.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. HUGH GIBBON.

Angel Hill,

Bury St. Edmund's,

February, 1900.